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SAINT LOUIS BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SAINT LOUIS BIRD CLUB.

for the Protection,
Enjoyment, Study, and Conservation of Birds.

Volume 4

November 15, 1935

Number 8

Announcement

There will not be any meeting in November due to Dr. Allen's illustrated lecture at Souldan High School.

As usual no meeting will be held in December. The time and place of the January Meeting will be announced in the January Bulletin. This Meeting will be the annual meeting with the election of new officers, all should try to attend this meeting.

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Minutes of the October Meeting

The October Meeting of the Saint Louis Bird Club was held on Wednesday, October 9th at The Nurses Home of The Jewish Hospital.

Mr. Satterthwait announced the plans for the convention of the Wilson Ornithological Club which will take place here in Saint Louis on December 29-31. Mr. Satterthwait is chairman of the local committee for the convention.

Miss Nellie Matlock talked on birding on Avery Island and the Southwest. John Felkner told some of his experiences with birds while crossing the ocean and while visiting in England. Miss Anne Loftus told about the work in ornithology at the Biological Station of the University of Michigan.

A general discussion followed and the meeting adjourned at 10.00 p.m.

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Dr. A. A. Allen was met by a large and interested audience for his sound film and picture lecture. November 6th at the Souldan High School. His lecture dealt with phases of courtship, nesting, feeding, and other various songs of some of the exceedingly rare birds now in existence in the United States, including the Ivory-billed Woodpecker and Sand Hill Crane.

The St. Louis Bird Club, The Academy of Science of St. Louis, The Webster

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THE WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

The American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Educational Museum of the Department of Instruction of the City of St. Louis, the Bird House of the St. Louis Zoo, The St. Louis Bird Club, the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, the Missouri State Audubon Society, and the Local Committee (Miss Lillie R. Ernst, Miss Elizabeth Golterman, Miss Clara Heising, Dr. D. M. Hojler, Miss Anne Loftus, Mrs. A. F. Satterthwait, and Mr. A. F. Satterthwait, Chairman) take great pleasure in welcoming the members and friends of the Wilson Ornithological Club to St. Louis, Missouri. For the Twenty-first Annual Meeting of the organization. The Program will cover Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, December 29, 30, 31, 1935.

Members and friends of the Club may have the services of the Local Committee on Saturday, December 28, to visit the Missouri Botanical Garden (Shaw's Garden), the Lindberg Trophies, and other famous features, by request.

A Field Trip is planned for Sunday morning, leaving Melbourne Hotel at 9.00 a.m., returning to Joseph Garavelli's Restaurant, 1400 DeGiverille Ave., for lunch about 1 p.m. Private conveyance will be furnished to visiting members and friends who wish to study the Creve Coeur Winter Resort for birds. Usually sizeable flocks of Robins and Bluebirds winter in this "ox-bow" lake region along the Missouri River, about twenty-five miles distant. Garavelli's is near the north boundary of Forest Park.

Those desiring to visit the Bird House a beautifully appointed and extremely well-managed unit of the Zoo, will be conveyed to the Bird House, leaving the restaurant about 2.00 p.m. At the Bird House Mr. H. M. Kennon, in charge, will take particular pleasure in showing our people his bird treasures. The evening is left open for conversations.

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BULLETIN

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Origin Of The Nest-Box Idea

Discussions of the origin of the nest-box idea have placed the date at most a few centuries back, but circumstantial evidence indicates a much greater age for it. Certain uncivilized tribes have the greatest facility for taming wild creatures, and often their homes are shared by a variety of furred and feathered pets.

This is no modern development; it is an ingrained trait of the people, and is the very thing that resulted in the subjection of all domesticated animals a process the beginnings of which are lost in antiquity. We may be sure that primitive man had pets, among them birds, and that without doubt he provided nesting facilities for some of them.

In the cradle of the human race, Asia, we should expect to find indications of primitive care for birds, and the expectation is not disappointed.

Early records of Asia Minor testify to the use of doves or pigeons for carrying messages, and such use necessitates the maintenance of houses for the birds; these must have been provided in very early stages of the domestication of the birds, certainly at a remote period. The shelves for swallows in Japanese temples and feeding towers with nesting places maintained by the Brahmins of India are no

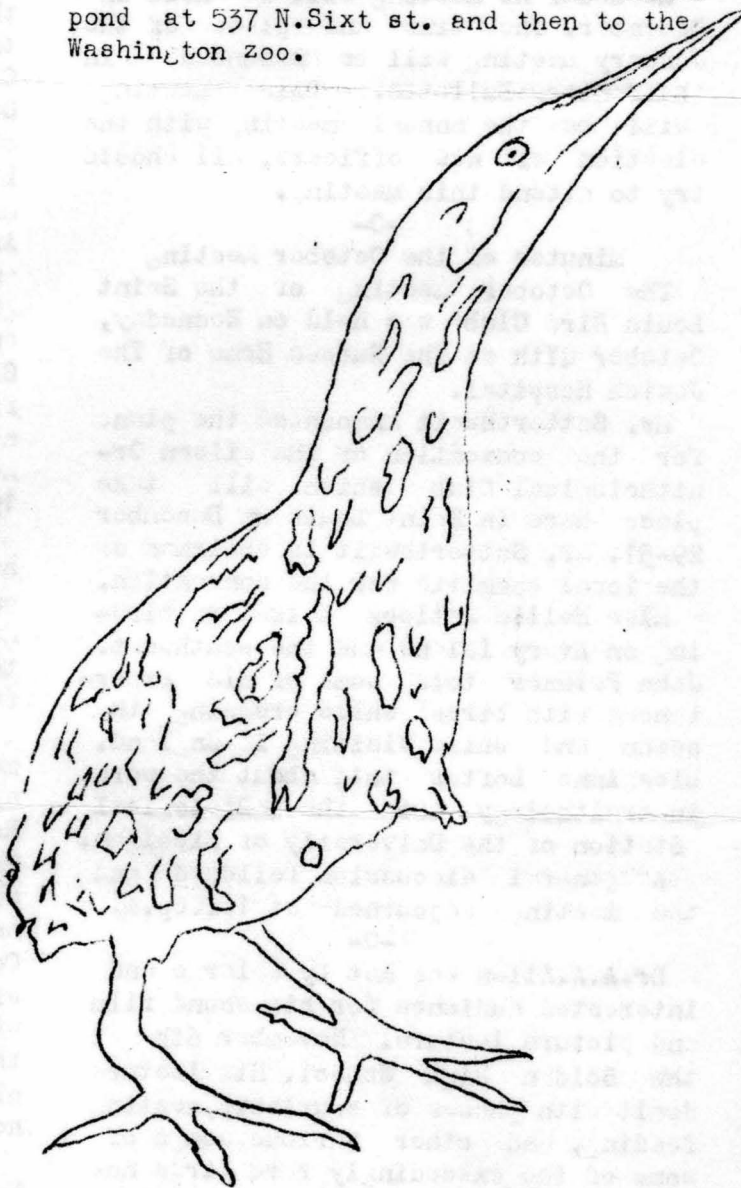
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Is That A Stork?

No, a Bittern, but it Lands on Roof.

A large whitepoke or American bittern, apparently flying south from its summer haunts in Wisconsin marshes, was rescued by police late Thursday after it landed on a theater and apartment building at 2473 S. Kinnickinnic ave. and became entangled in wash lines on the roof. The bird struggled furiously to release itself, thrashing its huge wings, and might have seriously injured itself had not the police thrown a net over it. The bird was taken to the animal pond at 537 N. Sixth st. and then to the Washington zoo.



The Bittern at the municipal pond.

Evidently the bird mistook the roof from which sunlight was reflected for a pond and darted down swiftly. It landed with such force as to bruise its legs

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innovations; on the contrary, they must have, among these nature worshippers, an antiquity going back to the very beginnings of their religions.

it is said that the early colonists of America found that some of the more agricultural tribes of eastern Indians hung up gourds for purple martins on trees trimmed to bare stubs for the purpose. How old the practice is we have no means of knowing, but it has been continued by white men to this day in but slightly modified form through the Southeastern States. The provisions of houses for purple martins and shelves for swallows dates back to colonial times.

Since the modern movements for bird study and protection have been in progress, the number of people furnishing homes for the birds has increased immensely in every quarter of our land.

Their success in attracting bird tenants has been great, and their hospitality has been accepted by almost every kind of bird whose original home can be imitated by man.

Compared with those interested in bird protection central Europe, Americans have sadly neglected one important matter in bird conservation--the provision of suitable roosting quarters, which have great value during periods of cold weather. The nest boxes left up throughout the year fill this need in part, but much more can be done. The removal of thickets and hollow trees in which numbers of birds formerly sought refuge from the elements and from enemies has greatly increased the need of warm and safe quarters for inclement nights. A large hollow tree partitioned into apartments may become the haven for a number of birds belonging to several species, as was demonstrated some years ago in an interesting manner when a well-known naturalist constructed an artificial hollow tree, to which he would often repair to study the ways of the nightly visitors. Although nothing so pretentious as this is necessary to fill the needs of roosting birds in a community, there is no question that proper housing will

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(The Wilson Ornithological Club)

Most of Monday and Tuesday will be given over to presentation of papers, slide talks and films, relating to all phases of bird life. All classes of members are urged to contribute to this program, and to notify the Secretary before December 15 as to the titles of their papers, the time required for their presentation, the character of illustrations; if any, and projection apparatus, table and wall space, etc., desired. If a definite position on the program is desired, contributors should so indicate.

Meetings will be held in the beautiful Alexander Room in the basement of the Melbourne Hotel, 3601 Lindel Blvd., from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m., and from 2.00 to 5.00 p.m., Monday, and beginning at 9.00 a.m., Tuesday, while the American Nature Study Society will meet on the first floor, same Hotel, Tuesday and Wednesday, forming a community of interest. Luncheon may be had in the Melbourne Coffee Room or at any one of several cafeterias within two blocks, all at moderate prices.

Monday evening, members and friends are invited to attend the address of the retiring President of the A.A.A.S. and the Reception, to be given at the Municipal Auditorium, 14th and Market Sts.

The Annual Banquet of the Wilson Ornithological Club will be at the Sayman Town Club, fifth floor, 1122 Locust St., at 3.5 p.m., at \$1.35 per plate.

Members and friends of the W.O.C. should go to the Municipal Auditorium to register as early as registry is possible. Upon registering, each person is given a badge of the A.A.A.S. - in effect a "Key to St. Louis," - a complete list of papers and places of all the activities of the A.A.A.S. and each of the Affiliated Societies, including the W.O.C., and maps; also complimentary tickets to special entertainments. Further, the place of registration is the best place for meeting your far-flung friends, and is approximate to the scientific and educational exhibits. These substantial "helps" should be secured before our sessions begin at 10.00 a.m. Monday.

The Audubon Society Meeting

At the fall meeting of this Organization, held in Kansas City October 26th, in conjunction with the Missouri Academy of Science convention, the following officers were elected:

Sterling P. Jones, of Webster Groves, president, C. Edward Buchner of Kansas City, Vice-president, George E. Moore of Lebanon, Secretary, Dr. Homer R. Bolen of Cape Girardeau, Treasurer.

The state has been divided into eight regional districts and Dr. Hotler has been appointed Regional director for the St. Louis region.

The meeting was well attended, with a goodly representation from St. Louis. One of the high spots of the meeting was a paper by Dr. W.S. Rodes of Topeka, Kansas, which will appear in bulletin form shortly. Another fine paper was Miss Clara Heising's, on the training adolescent mind to become interested in birds and conservation. Dr. Edwin P. McInerny, read a paper on the meeting of the Chuck-will's Widow and showed his motion pictures of the first known nest of this bird as far north as St. Louis County, according to the late Otto Widmann.

These pictures were made at Rankin.

Miss Bessie Nau reviewed the Audubon book "Singing in the Rain", giving side-light on the life of that Picturesque naturalist.

A.H. Duvall of Lake-of-the-Ozarks offered to mount any specimens of birds sent to him and establish an Audubon Society collection of birds, the nucleus of a museum at that place. He was appointed Audubon Society Taxidermist.

The collection of colored lantern slides prepared and donated to the Society by Prof. A.E. Sirling, is now in the care of Sterling P. Jones.

S.P.J.

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Dues Notice

Miss Golterman calls attention to the fact that dues for the current year will expire in December and suggests that Club members send in their remittances as soon as is possible.

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Duck hunters have been asked by the U.S. Biological Survey to examine all ducks killed to ascertain whether or not they are banded. It is important to know more about the waterfowl at this particular time than at any time heretofore.

(Is it a Stork?)

and skidded over the roof. Residents notified police and Officers George Schwartz and Harold Walters of the Bay View station captured the bird.

When the police were endeavoring to catch the heron a woman living in one of the apartments opened the window and called to the policeman:

"Is that a stork?"

"Yes," replied the officers, "it looks as though there's going to be something doing around here."

The woman slammed down the window.

The bird, a member of the heron family, is about a foot and one-half high. The wings have a three-foot spread. The Bittern's natural habitat is marshland.

(From The Milwaukee Journal)

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New Members

Mrs. Anne C. Preetorius
700 N. Union

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(Dr. A.A. Allen)

Groves Nature Study Society, and The St. Louis District Teachers' Association all feel well repaid for having brought Dr. Allen to this city.

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The Ohio Division of Conservation is making an appeal to farmers and landowners to save "den trees". A dead tree may be a "den tree" and valuable as the home of some wild creature, squirrel, coon or even woodpecker. Many sportsmen's organizations are planning to arrange with farmers the lease or even the purchase of den trees to be left standing as a part of the wildlife conservation plan. This is an excellent idea and is recommended to all states and sportsmen's groups the "American Game" Says.

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The Foundation, More Game Birds in America, 500 First Avenue, New York City, publishes free booklets for distribution on request. "More Game Birds by the Control of Their Natural Enemies," "Game Birds -- How to Make Them Pay on the Farm," may be had by dropping a card addressed to the Foundation.

(Origin of Bird Houses)

greatly reduce the winter mortality among them. Woodpeckers, titmice, nuthatches, chickadees, wrens, starlings, and owls will readily avail themselves of such shelters, and doubtless many species not hole nesters would use such cavities as roosting places. The benefits accruing from the provision of roosting shelters may not be so apparent as in the case of nest boxes, but they are none the less real. Several of our woodpeckers, chickadees, nuthatches, and titmice now have the habit of using old nests for winter quarters, and no doubt they will utilize nest boxes or roosting houses for the purpose, especially such of the latter as are constructed for individual birds.

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Boy Scout Bird Exhibit

At the Boy Scout Merit Badge Show to be held at the Arena December 5-6-7, Webster Groves Troop 9 will stage the Bird Merit Badge Exhibit. As many of these boys have gotten much of their field experiences while accompanying field leaders in both the St. Louis Bird Club and the Nature-Study Society and have had much encouragement in their work from both sources, the boys will appreciate a visit to their bird booth. Their mounting of bird nests is unique and I am sure visitors will find their exhibit interesting.

Sterling P. Jones

Troop Committeeman for "W.G.9"

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Home 1500 Miles Away, Quail Ran For It!

A couple of years ago the Oklahoma Game Commission thought it would be a good idea to plant some blue quail in Oklahoma. The blue quail, to hunters in these parts, is the Mexican, or scaled quail. He would rather run than fly.

And how he runs! The Commission ordered several hundred scaled quail from Mexico. The birds were trapped across the Rio Grande near Eagle Pass, bands put on their legs, and they were shipped to Oklahoma. The next year the Oklahoma commission decided some more quail were needed for planting, so they ordered another bunch from Mexican officials.

The traps were put out again. When the "haul" was made several quail caught the year before, still wearing bands that had been put on when they were shipped to Oklahoma, were in the traps.

From the parts of Oklahoma where the

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Bird Banding Notes

The total number of birds banded in the United States during the fiscal year 1935, is 249,829. During the same time last year a total of 275,017 were banded.

In 1934 the total number of returns received was 18,321, in 1935 it was 16,915.

The grand total of returns since 1920 is 117,685.

The grand total of birds banded since 1920 is 1,906,455.

The total number of banders in the United States is about the same as last year, between 1900 and 2000.

O.L. Austin Ornithological Research Station, North Eastham, Mass. banded the largest number of birds having a total of 22,678, for the fiscal year 1935.

E.A. McIlheny, Avery Island, La. was second with a total of 9,321.

Wm. I. Lyon, Waukegan, Ill. was third with a total of 5,595.

The largest number of an individual species banded during the fiscal year 1935 was 22,315 of Common terns. The second largest was 15,486 of the Junco (hyemalis-oregonus group). The third was 15,117 of Pintail.

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Christmas Suggestions 1935

To Bird and Nature Lovers:-

As in previous years, the Massachusetts Audubon Society offers to help with your Christmas shopping. They will be glad to enclose cards and forward to addresses given, in time for the Holiday season.

Novel and desirable gifts for Bird and Nature Lovers are Bird Charts, Calendars, Books, Puzzles, Field Glasses, Bird song Records, Birdhouses, Feeders and Bird Foods.

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New Books

Field Guide to Birds by Roger Troy Peterson, using diagrammatic drawings of the birds with descriptions of the conspicuous field marks. Especially valuable to students.

Guide to Bird Songs by Aretas A. Saunders. A valuable new pocket guide to songs and singing habits of the land birds of the northeastern United States.

The Hawks of North America by John B. May. It has 37 color plates and the text of which is a timely authoritative collection of facts concerning these valuable birds whose beauty and threatened extinction make them of especial interest to naturalists and conservationists.

(Home 1500 Miles Away, Quail Run For It)
Mexican quail were released to Eagle Pass is a Distance of 1,000 miles or more. That's quite a jaunt for nearly anything or anyone, let alone a quail that prefers to run instead of fly.

(From the Pennsylvania Game News)

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Missouri is supposed to have purchased 20,000 Mexican Quail for planting in the State. Practically none were ever heard of, or shot, of what was received and liberated.

Did they run for home also?

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Numerous reports of eagles being shot and mounted for display purposes have reached the Game and Fish Department.

Under the State regulations the eagle is classified as non-game but no open season is provided. State regulations prohibit the killing of any wild bird classified as non-game except the English or house sparrow, blackbird, crow, sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, Goshawk and great horned owl. The Federal laws as well protect the eagle and it is unlawful to kill the bird which is used on national emblems and many coins.

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Ira N. Gabrielson, who last week succeeded J.N. Derling as Chief of the U.S. Biological Survey, is the sixth chief of the Survey, which was established 50 years ago. Mr. Gabrielson has been associated with the bureau for twenty years as a research expert. He is the author of more than 250 articles pertaining to bird and mammal life and botanical subjects. He also has taken an active interest in game-law enforcement and in other conservation activities, and has traveled extensively through the country, gaining wide experience in the bureau's economic and conservation work.

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Personalia

Mr. R.A. Dode the former editor of this bulletin has been residing for some time past in Napoleon, Ohio. He sends greetings to all his friends of the Bird Club. His Address has been changed to 316 W. Clinton St. Napoleon, Ohio.

We include a small clipping from the Milwaukee Journal, in another column, from a letter sent to your editor.

THE LAND OF THE OZARKS (Air of Old Oaken Bucket) By F.H. Wielandy

How dear to my heart is the land of
the Ozarks,
Its uplands and valleys, its crystal
clear springs;
Its lights and its shadows, the calm of
its evenings,
The thrill of the wild when the whip-
poorwill sings.
The soft silver light of the moon in
the ripples,
The sunsets of crimson and dawns of
pure gold;
The throat of the trumpet's red flower
wide open,
The joy in my soul that will never
grow old.

The joy of the Ozarks!
The thrill of the Ozarks!
State Parks in the Ozarks
Conserving the wild.

Oh, beautiful, wonderful land of
the Ozarks,
Inviting all lovers of God's out-
of-doors,
Conserving its wild life shall be
my endeavor
No red-blooded man that
ambition deploras.
I love all its rivers, its woodlands
and caverns,
The wind on the hilltop, the calm in
the dale,
Its sunlight and starlight, the hush of
its twilight,
Its night-time of slumber and rest
without fail.

The charm of the Ozarks,
The peace of the Ozarks,
Bring visions of State Parks
Conserving the wild.